

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for configuring a template for a printer, comprising:
 - providing template attributes to memory of the printer;
 - receiving print data into the printer memory;
 - creating at the printer a template from the template attributes in response to received print data;
 - ~~providing print data to the printer memory;~~
 - merging the print data into the template to create a composite image; and
 - printing the composite image on a substrate.
2. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
 - said printer comprises a ticket printer; and
 - said substrate comprises a ticket.
- 3-5. (Cancelled).
6. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
 - the template attributes are provided by a host system associated with the printer.
7. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 6, wherein:
 - the template attributes are input via a user interface associated with the host system.

8. (Currently amended) ~~A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:~~ A method for configuring a template for a printer, comprising:

providing [[the]] template attributes to memory of the printer ~~are provided~~ from a removable memory device insertable into the printer;
receiving print data into the printer memory;
creating at the printer a template for the received print data from the template attributes;
merging the received print data into the template to create a composite image; and
printing the composite image on a substrate.

9. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein:

the removable memory device comprises one of a compact flash card, a smart card, a smart media card, a USB flash drive, a memory stick, or a plug in serial EEPROM.

10. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

the template attributes comprise at least one of number of print fields, print field position, print field area, print position, font style, bold font, italic font, underline text, font size, characters per inch, text orientation, image position, image size, print resolution, barcode type, and color.

11. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

said template contains a number of print fields.

12. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 11, wherein:

the number of print fields is configurable.

13. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 11, further comprising:

providing template attributes for each print field.

14. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
the print data comprises at least one of text and graphics.
15. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
the print data is forwarded from a host system associated with the printer.
16. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
the host system comprises one of a cash register, a point of sale terminal, a slot machine, a gaming terminal, a lottery ticket machine, a transportation ticket vending machine, or an entertainment ticket vending machine.
17. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
the substrate comprises one of a receipt, a lottery ticket, a coupon, a bus ticket, an airplane ticket, a train ticket, a gaming voucher, or a slot machine voucher.
18. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
said template attributes include delimiting characters for separating print field data.
19. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 18, wherein:
said delimiting characters are configurable.
20. (Currently amended) A printer having a configurable template, comprising:
memory for storing received template attributes and received print data;
a processor for;

creating a template from the template attributes in response to the received print data; and

merging the print data into the template to create a composite image; and
printing means for printing the composite image on a substrate.

21. (Original) A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

said printer comprises a ticket printer; and

said substrate comprises a ticket.

22-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Original) A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

the template attributes are provided by a host system associated with the printer.

26. (Original) A printer in accordance with claim 25, wherein:

the template attributes are input via a user interface associated with the host system.

27. (Currently amended) ~~A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:~~ A printer having a configurable template, comprising:

memory for storing received template attributes and received print data;

a processor for creating a template from the template attributes for the received print data and merging the print data into the template to create a composite image;

printing means for printing the composite image on a substrate;

means for connecting a removable memory device to the printer, the template attributes
[[are]] being provided from [[a]] the removable memory device ~~insertable into the printer.~~

28. (Original) A printer in accordance with claim 27, wherein:

the removable memory device comprises one of a compact flash card, a smart card, a smart media card, a USB flash drive, a memory stick, or a plug in serial EEPROM.

29. (Original) A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

the template attributes comprise at least one of number of print fields, print field area, print position, font style, bold font, italic font, underline text, font size, characters per inch, text orientation, image position, image size, print resolution, barcode type, and color.

30. (Original) A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

said template contains a number of print fields.

31. (Original) A printer in accordance with claim 30, wherein:

the number of print fields is configurable.

32. (Original) A printer in accordance with claim 30, wherein:

template attributes are provided for each print field.

33. (Original) A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

the print data comprises at least one of text and graphics.

34. (Original) A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

the print data is forwarded from a host system associated with the printer.

35. (Original) A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

the host system comprises one of a cash register, a point of sale terminal, a slot machine,

a gaming terminal, a lottery ticket machine, a transportation ticket vending machine, or an entertainment ticket vending machine.

36. (Original) A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

the substrate comprises one of a receipt, a lottery ticket, a coupon, a bus ticket, an airplane ticket, a train ticket, a gaming voucher, or a slot machine voucher.

37. (Original) A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

said template attributes include delimiting characters for separating print field data.

38. (Original) A printer in accordance with claim 37, wherein:

said delimiting characters are configurable.

39. (New) A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

verifying all template fields are complete prior to printing the composite image; and
if the template fields are not complete, monitoring communications from a host computer until additional print data is received and all template fields are complete.

40. (New) A printer in accordance with claim 20, further comprising:

means for verifying all template fields are complete prior to printing the composite image;

means for monitoring communications from a host computer;

wherein, if the template fields are not complete, the means for monitoring monitors the communications from the host computer until additional print data is received and all template fields are complete.